

**Patent Claims**

1. A guiding device (10) for positioning at least one workpiece (12), comprising a workpiece position monitoring device (14), characterized in that the workpiece position monitoring device (14) is designed as a sensor unit (16) for contactless workpiece position monitoring.

2. The device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the workpiece position monitoring device (14) is additionally designed as a centering and fixing unit.

3. The device as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that it is part of a pressing unit or of a bodysell-welding unit.

4. The device as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the sensor unit (16) is an optical sensor unit, in particular an infrared sensor unit.

5. The device as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the sensor unit (16) has a plurality of spaced-apart sensor elements (20).

6. The device as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that at least two sensor elements (20) arranged in a common plane are provided for workpiece position detection.

7. The device as claimed in claim 5 or 6, characterized in that the sensor element (20) is designed as a nondestructively replaceable structural element.

8. The device as claimed in one of claims 5 to 7, characterized in that the sensor element (20) in each case has an L-shaped workpiece contact side (22) with which a sensor detection line (24) forms a triangle.

9. The device as claimed in either of claims 7 and 8, characterized in that the sensor element (20) has at least one hardened workpiece contact face (26).

10. The device as claimed in one of claims 7 to 9, characterized in that the sensor element (20) is a standard element.

11. The device as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the sensor unit (16) is connected to an electronic data processing device and/or to a control device.